

■ General Information

These relatively small, isolated parcels were selected from Tongass National Forest under National Forest Community Grant #209. They are bordered by the airport and by Native selections.

■ Unit 8B - tidelands & submerged lands

Background

Unit 8B encompasses the heavily-used tidelands and submerged lands within a few miles of Yakutat including Monti Bay, and parts of Yakutat Bay and the Gulf of Alaska.

Physical features

This unit includes the only deep-water anchorage protected from storms between Cordova (225 miles north) and Cross Sound (150 miles south). The relatively sheltered waters provide rich habitat for an abundance of marine life. Several bays, coves, passages, and lagoons provide protected waters for fishermen, subsistence harvesters, and recreationists. Monti Bay is adjacent to the industrial and main population center of Yakutat.

Land status

State land in Unit 8B is limited to the tidelands and submerged lands near Yakutat. The City and Borough of Yakutat owns approximately 258 acres of tidelands and submerged lands along the eastern shore of Monti Bay adjacent to the dock and several waterfront residences. DNR owns all other tidelands and submerged lands in the unit. Leases for commercial and industrial uses have been issued in south Monti Bay.

Adjoining lands

Adjacent upland owners include the City and Borough of Yakutat, DNR, Yak-tat Kwaan, and a few other private parties.

Access

The docks and anchorage in Monti Bay provide a marine transportation link between Yakutat and other Pacific ports. State ferry service is limited to a few times per year but barge and freight service is more frequent. Besides Monti Bay, several bays and coves provide protected anchorage for fishing boats and other smaller craft. The boat harbor in Shipyard Cove is managed by the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOTPF). It provides docking facilities for boats and float planes and has a launch ramp connected to the local road system. The timber transfer facility at Broken Oar Cove is another marine access point.

Resources and uses

Local residents, commercial fishermen, and an increasing number of visitors harvest and or observe the diverse and abundant marine life in Unit 8B. Harbor seals, sea otters, and a variety of waterfowl, salmon, crab, clams, and seaweeds are commonly harvested and observed. The Ankau Saltchucks have exceptional habitat and harvest values for waterfowl, shellfish, and salmon. They are highly popular for community harvest and, increasingly, sport harvest. Puget Cove is intensively used for community crab and salmon harvest. Knight Island and Chicago Harbor are popular destinations for weekend boating, particularly for fishing and community harvest. Khantaak Island is a favorite day-trip destination for boating and for community harvest of a variety of seafood.



Ankau Saltchucks

Where forested, the coastal fringe serves as a high density winter range for a remnant population of Sitka blacktail deer.

The nutrient-rich protected waters provide ideal habitat for aquatic farming. Yak-tat Kwaan is raising Pacific oysters in Gonakadetseat Bay and is experimenting with scallops and other species on the west side of Ahduck Bay (Square Bay).

Management considerations

Although the waters have productive habitat for aquatic farming, further development of the industry will require careful siting and operating guidelines to minimize impacts on the intensive existing uses in Unit 8. Consult the *Aquatic Farming Resources Report* for this plan to identify areas of particular concern and possible mitigating measures. Applicable ordinances of the City and Borough of Yakutat will also need to be considered.

The City of Yakutat recently commissioned a study to determine the need for additional docking and harbor facilities in Monti Bay for fish processing and cruise ship docking. This study, the *Shoreline Use Survey and Analysis*, identified several potential sites including the big city dock and cold storage dock (tidelands owned by the City and Borough of Yakutat) and the Kwaan dock (leased tidelands from DNR). The Yakutat *Comprehensive Development Plan* (1983) recommended fish processing be separated from other marine activities.

Oil and Gas Lease Sale 79 could create the need for additional docking facilities for exploration or development. Tidelands on the south shore of Monti Bay near the Yak-tat Kwaan dock have been identified in previous studies as a favorable site.

In its Yakutat *Comprehensive Development Plan*, the city recommended the state and Yak-tat Kwaan help control the increasing use of the Ankau for sport fishing and recreation.

Authorizations for aquatic farms should include stipulations to maintain the existing community uses listed in the *Aquatic Farming Resources Report* for this area plan.

Blacksand deposits on the west coast of Khantaak Island have been worked intermittently since the 1880s for gold and platinum. The U.S. Bureau of Mines reported erratic but possibly significant concentrates of magnetite.

Unit 8B - southeastern Yakutat Bay - tidelands & submerged lands resource allocation summary

Forestry

DNR will manage the log transfer facility in Broken Oar Cove for continued availability for resource transfer.

Fish and wildlife harvest

Most tidelands and submerged lands near Yakutat are designated HV1 to protect the high level of harvest of fish, shellfish, marine invertebrates and sea vegetables in the coves and saltchucks. The only exceptions are the tidelands with access and infrastructure that favor commercial and transportation development. The area plan includes a community-generated inventory of marine resources and uses to help DNR avoid or minimize conflicts between harvest and future uses.

Fish and wildlife habitat

The high biological productivity of Yakutat Bay is protected by H1 designations for most tidelands and submerged lands. The area plan includes a community-generated inventory of marine resources and uses to help DNR avoid or minimize conflicts between habitat and future uses.

Minerals development

All state-owned submerged lands and most tidelands are open to mineral entry. State-owned shorelands and tidelands of the most productive anadromous lakes, streams, and lagoons are open only under mineral leasehold location. These include the Ankau Saltchucks, Tawah Creek, Aka Lake, and Kardy Lake. There are no recorded mineral prospects.

Unit 8B - southeastern Yakutat Bay - tidelands & submerged lands resource allocation summary

Recreation and tourism

The most scenic state tidelands and submerged lands in the vicinity are designated for dispersed recreation: Puget Cove, Ophir Creek, and the outer coast from Kardy to Aka Lakes. Settlement at Puget Cove will be designed to protect public recreation values and scenic qualities. The RP (recreation-public use) designation for the small boat harbor at Shipyard Cove is intended to protect and enhance recreation access to marine waters. The plan does not recommend commercial recreation leasing of the tidelands under the .073 process. Other forms of recreation leasing are feasible except on the Ankau Saltchucks tidelands. The plan has a guideline to allow public recreation use of tidelands in the Ankau, but prohibits commercial recreation leasing.

Settlement

The City and Borough of Yakutat owns the tidelands along eastern Monti Bay at and near the current docks and seafood processing plant.

Transportation

The waterfront development designation ensures continued availability of Broken Oar Cove for a resource transfer facility; continued and expanded use of Shipyard Cove for public transportation; and future expansion of marine transfer facilities and other industrial uses at Monti Bay.

Waterfront development

The two existing marine industrial areas have been designated for waterfront development to allow expansion.

Other resources

Aquatic farming. Aquatic farm siting and mitigation will be decided case-by-case. Appendix F presents a table of site-specific resource information on existing marine resources and uses near Yakutat. The table rates the sensitivity to development of existing uses in various coves and bays.

Subunit 8b-1 - tidelands and submerged lands at Monti Bay, Yakutat Roads, and around Yakutat Islands - most areas

■ Designation

Habitat, harvest, dispersed recreation (H1, HV1, RD1)

■ Management intent

Protect or enhance fish and wildlife habitat, particularly for seals, seabirds, and otters.

Protect conditions for fish and wildlife harvest, particularly for commercial fish and shellfish harvest, aquatic farming, and community harvest of salmon, crab, clams, waterfowl, and seals.

Protect or enhance conditions for dispersed recreation, particularly boating, fishing, gathering, and anchorages.

All activities will, to the extent feasible and prudent, avoid significant adverse impacts to the habitat resources, harvest activities, and recreation uses listed above.

■ Guidelines:

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| Maintain stability of barrier island | Activities which may disrupt natural sedimentation or accelerate erosion along the shore of Khantaak Island will not be allowed. Maintaining the stability of the shoreline on Khantaak Island is important because the island breaks the force of winds and waves from the Gulf, sheltering the harbor at Yakutat. |
| Maintain existing community uses | Authorizations for aquatic farms should include stipulations to maintain the existing community uses listed in Appendix F and the <i>Aquatic Farming Resource Report</i> for this area plan. |

■ General information

Numerous upland areas have cultural sites or are used for community harvest, with access by small boat from Yakutat. Anchorages and access across the tidelands are important to the use of these upland sites. Cultural sites include: a historic village site on Port Mulgrave, abandoned in 1893 and now covered by a graveyard; and various camping places on the north end of Crab Island. Yak-tat Kwaan hosts a Tlingit culture camp for youth every summer in the Ankau. Community harvest occurs in most of the bays, coves, and passages in this subunit. Intensity of use varies. More information is available in the *Aquatic Farming Resources Report* prepared for this plan. Harvest directly from tidelands and shorelands includes digging for cockles and clams, gathering of gumboots, seaweed, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers, pot fishing for shrimp and crab, salmon trolling, and waterfowl and seal hunting. The set net fishery at Humpie Creek attracts an annual average of 12 permit holders, primarily for pink salmon and a small number of coho, with an annual average value of \$7,600 from 1981-1991.

Sport fishing and hunting and recreation uses occur throughout this subunit. The lees of the islands are favored for kayaking and other small boat use because strong swells and winds from Yakutat Bay are common.

Khantaak Island serves as a barrier island, sheltering the City of Yakutat from the brunt of storm swells and winds from Yakutat Bay and the Gulf.

Large boats, particularly non-Yakutat fishing boats, anchor in Rurik Harbor and Deep Bay as an alternative to the boat harbor. Rurik Harbor is 20 fathoms at the mouth, with an open channel, and a mud bottom that allows anchors to drag somewhat. Deep Bay is 30 fathoms deep at the mouth; ten fathoms deep at the end, and free from the westerly winds common in summer.

The *Aquatic Farming Resources Report* provides specific resource information for discrete sites within Unit 8B. Potential conflicts between aquatic farming and existing uses are noted. See also the table at the end of this unit and Appendix F.

Subunit 8b-2 - tidelands and submerged lands in the Anka saltchucks

■ Designation

Habitat, harvest, dispersed recreation (H1, HV1, RD1)

■ Management Intent

Protect or enhance conditions for fish and wildlife habitat, particularly for waterfowl, shorebirds, swans, and salmon rearing.

Protect fish and wildlife harvest activities, particularly community harvest for fish, clams, waterfowl, and furbearers; and sport fishing.

Protect or enhance conditions for dispersed recreation, particularly boating, wildlife viewing, and scenic values.

All activities will, to the extent feasible and prudent, avoid significant adverse impacts to the habitat resources, harvest activities, and recreation uses listed above.

DNR will cooperate with the efforts of the USFS and City and Borough of Yakutat to designate and develop the historic canoe route parallel to the coast as a recreation and cultural attraction. DNR will ensure that activities in Unit 8b-2 avoid significant adverse impacts to the scenic, cultural, and recreational values of the canoe route.

■ Guidelines:

Mineral leasehold location	In the beds of the Anka Saltchucks and Kardy Lake that support anadromous fish, new mineral entry will be allowed only under leasehold location in order to protect high quality anadromous fish habitat and to avoid impacts to water quality that are essential for sustaining the productivity of the Yakataga planning area's commercial, sport, and community harvest fisheries. See Appendix B for a map of the leasehold location areas.
Commercial recreation leasing	Commercial recreation leasing is prohibited in order to protect high fish and wildlife habitat values and community harvest. This intent does not preclude public recreational use of tidelands adjacent to a proposed community park on ANCSA 14(c)3 lands adjacent to the Anka bridge.

■ General Information

Several of the elders of Yakutat expressed during the planning process that they want the highest available protection for community harvest in the Anka Saltchucks.

Waterfowl and seal hunting occur throughout the saltchucks. The northern saltchucks are used for harvest of clams, cockles, and waterfowl. A Tlingit culture camp for youth is held in this area for two to three weeks sometime between May and July. The entrance to the Anka is narrow and shallow with strong currents and whirling eddies.

The southwestern and central-eastern saltchucks have less harvest activity than Kardy Lake and the northern saltchucks. Storms have occasionally breached the coastal barrier to the southwest lagoons. The central-eastern saltchucks have narrow passages and drain nearly dry at low tide.

The *Aquatic Farming Resources Report* provides specific resource information for sites within this subunit. See also the table at the end of Unit 8, and Appendix F.



Monti Bay

Subunit 8b-3 - tidelands and submerged lands in Monti Bay

■ **Designation**

Waterfront development (WD)

■ **Management intent**

Promote use of tidelands and submerged lands for water-dependent or water-related facilities for industrial or commercial purposes. All activities will minimize significant adverse impacts to opportunities to develop these facilities.

■ **Guidelines:** None. There are no guidelines specific to this subunit.

■ **General information**

DNR has patented some of the tidelands in this subunit to the City and Borough of Yakutat (Tracts A and B, or ATS 1407 and ATS 787).

Subunit 8b-4 - embayment and tidal marsh southwest of Shipyard Cove tidelands and submerged lands

■ **Designation**

Habitat (H1)

■ **Management intent**

Promote and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, particularly eel grass beds. All activities will, to the extent feasible and prudent, avoid significant adverse impacts to the eelgrass beds.

■ **Guidelines:** None. There are no guidelines specific to this subunit.

■ **General information**

This saltchuck is easily accessible from a paved road and is an important harvest area for less-mobile residents, who gather sea cucumbers and sea urchins here.

The *Aquatic Farming Resources Report* provides specific resource information for sites within each subunit. See also the table at the end of this unit and Appendix F.

Subunit 8b-5 - tidelands and submerged lands in Shipyard Cove

■ Designation

Public use site recreation and transportation (RP1, T)

■ Management intent

Protect or enhance access and facilities for public recreation, particularly small boats and float planes. All activities will, to the extent feasible and prudent, avoid significant adverse impacts to the access and recreation uses.

Promote access through opportunities for expanding and upgrading the small boat harbor in response to the needs of inter-regional and intra-regional marine transportation. All activities will avoid significant adverse impacts to opportunities for access and facilities related to the small boat harbor and float plane dock.

■ **Guidelines:** None. There are no guidelines specific to this subunit.

■ General information

The small boat harbor and float plane dock are managed by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

There are a few unauthorized float homes in this cove.

Subunit 8b-6 tidelands and submerged lands in Broken Oar Cove

■ Designation

Waterfront development (WD)

■ Management intent

Promote use of tidelands and submerged lands for water-dependent or water-related facilities for industrial or commercial purposes.

All activities will, to the extent feasible and prudent, avoid significant adverse impacts to opportunities for waterfront development for the above purposes.

This unit will be managed to ensure continued availability for log transfer and other resource transfer.

■ **Guidelines:** None. There are no guidelines specific to this subunit.

■ General information

Log ships are loaded from in-water log storage areas. Use of the log transfer is expected to be low in future decades because most state and privately-owned timber on the Yakutat forelands has already been harvested, and the U.S. Forest Service has no plans for large timber sales.

Recreationists, including kayakers, are attracted by road access and a beach suitable for boat launching. There is sport trolling and moderate community harvest (shrimp, crab, and seals).

There is low to moderate herring spawning on the south shore and tip of the cove.

The *Aquatic Farming Resources Report* provides specific resource information for sites within each subunit. See also the table at the end of Unit 8, and Appendix F.

**Unit 8A - Yakutat - uplands & shorelands;
Unit 8B - southeastern Yakutat Bay - tidelands & submerged lands**

Area # & name	Designation	Resource or Use (See the resource reports and maps for more complete information.)	Background
8a-1 Puget Cove uplands	S RD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ recreation: easy boat access from Yakutat, close to road ■ community harvest: fish and shellfish ■ high scenic values from shore and from water ■ anadromous fish spawning streams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Only state-owned uplands on Yakutat Bay ■ Easy access contributes to recreation potential ■ There is a limited forested shoreline along the bay east of town because of past logging near the shore.
8a-2 north Forest Highway	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Future timber potential. 90 percent of the timber was harvested in the 1980s. ■ road access ■ high scenic values ■ anadromous fish spawning streams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Previously proposed for state land sale
8a-3 south Forest Highway, Glacier Bear area	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Future timber potential. 50 percent of the timber was harvested in the 1980s. ■ materials site ■ road access 	
8a-4 Airport Road	Conveyed to MHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Future timber potential. 50 percent of the timber was harvested in the 1980s. ■ road access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DNR conveyed this parcel to the Mental Health Trust after the Yakataga Area Plan was signed. It is no longer subject to the guidelines and policies of the area plan. ■ In 1984, DNR surveyed 500 acres for a residential subdivision, but did not hold a sale.
8a-5 road junction	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ timber values ■ anadromous and resident fish spawning/rearing stream 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Previously proposed for land sale
8a-6 Ophir Creek uplands & shorelands and Summit Lake shorelands	H1 HV1 RD1 F2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Has commercial timber. Partly harvested. ■ community harvest: salmon, moose, trapping ■ trumpeter swan wintering area ■ eagle wintering concentration area ■ waterfowl/shorebird concentration area ■ anadromous and resident fish spawning/rearing stream ■ trout over-wintering ■ fishery enhancement project ■ public recreation: scenic old-growth forest, hiking, day use ■ Unmaintained dirt road provides seasonal vehicle access for 4WD and ATVs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A drop in the water level in Ophir Creek has diminished fish productivity. DFG and CBY are attempting fishery enhancement.

**Unit 8A - Yakutat - uplands & shorelands;
Unit 8B - southeastern Yakutat Bay - tidelands & submerged lands**

Area # & name	Designation	Resource or Use (See the resource reports and maps for more complete information.)	Background
8a-7 west Yakutat	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ road access ■ rugged terrain and wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adjoins existing settled area and Yak-tat Kwaan land
8a-8 Aka Lake uplands and submerged lands	H1 HV1 HR RD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ timber values; difficult access ■ important habitat for migrating and overwintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and trumpeter swans ■ general site of New Russia settlement (historic site) ■ intensive community and sport fishing (from shore) ■ beaches popular for hiking, ATV driving, beachcombing and surfing ■ uplands used for wildlife viewing, berry picking, mushroom gathering ■ anadromous & resident fish spawning/rearing ■ trout over-wintering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adjoins Yak-tat Kwaan lands. ■ Development along the beach would be subject to flooding from severe storms, seiches, or tsunamis.
8a-9 east airport tract	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ road access ■ moose winter habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ State selection under National Forest Community Grant #209 ■ Adjoins mapped wetland area of several square miles to the east ■ Adjoins Yak-tat Kwaan lands ■ Adjoins state land managed by DOT/PF for the Yakutat Airport
8b-1 tidelands and submerged lands in Monti Bay, Yakutat Roads, and Yakutat Islands	H1 HV1 RD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ deer feed along the intertidal zone of all islands during the winter and spring ■ bear spring feeding on tidelands north of Redfield Cove ■ herring spawning, schooling, & over-wintering ■ capelin spawning ■ Dungeness and king crab molting, mating, and juvenile rearing ■ shrimp rearing ■ kelp and eelgrass beds ■ harvestable concentrations of bivalves ■ several harbor seal concentration areas ■ seabird nesting colonies ■ several sea otter concentration areas ■ extensive community harvest (salmon, crab, clams, waterfowl, seals, gathering, etc.) ■ recreation & tourism, kayaking, boating, fishing ■ several sites have characteristics for aquatic farm development ■ commercial fish and shellfish harvest ■ deep-draft anchorage in several bays on Khantaak Island (used by fishing vessels) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Blacksand deposits on the west coast of Khantaak Island have been worked intermittently since the 1880s for gold and platinum. ■ The U.S. Bureau of Mines reported erratic but possibly significant concentrates of magnetite.

**Unit 8A - Yakutat - uplands & shorelands;
Unit 8B - southeastern Yakutat Bay - tidelands & submerged lands**

Area # & name	Designation	Resource or Use (See the resource reports and maps for more complete information.)	Background
<p>8b-2 tidelands and submerged lands in Ankau Saltchucks</p>	<p>H1 HV1 RD1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ extremely productive community harvest area (fish, clams, waterfowl, trapping); road accessible ■ waterfowl/shorebirds spring and fall concentration area ■ trumpeter swan wintering ■ important salmon-rearing area and marine habitat ■ seabird nesting colony at mouth of Ankau ■ annual Tlingit culture camp held in northern Ankau ■ anadromous and resident fish spawning and rearing ■ herring spawning ■ Dungeness crab molting, mating, and juvenile rearing ■ eulachon spawning concentration ■ eelgrass beds ■ harvestable concentration of bivalves ■ recreation: sport fishing, boating, wildlife viewing, scenic values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Refer to the <i>Aquatic Farming Resources Report</i> for this area plan for a list of existing uses and values. ■ Blacksand deposits on the west coast of Khantaak Island have been worked intermittently since the 1880s for gold and platinum. ■ The U.S. Bureau of Mines reported erratic but possibly significant concentrates of magnetite.
<p>8b-3 tidelands and submerged lands in Monti Bay</p>	<p>WD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ docks for fuel, freight, and seafood off-loading ■ anchorage: occasional lengthy anchorage by seafood processing ships ■ Dungeness crab molting, mating, and juvenile rearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The City and Borough of Yakutat own several tideland areas along Monti Bay, including the tidelands at the seafood processing dock.
<p>8b-4 embayment and tidal marsh southwest of Shipyard Cove tidelands and submerged lands</p>	<p>H1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ eelgrass beds ■ community harvest: invertebrate gathering ■ Dungeness carb molting, mating, and juvenile rearing ■ shrimp rearing ■ harvestable concentrations of bivalves 	
<p>8b-5 tidelands and submerged lands in Shipyard Cove</p>	<p>RP1 T</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ small boat harbor (managed by DOT/PF) ■ sea plane float (managed by DOT/PF) ■ several float homes (unauthorized by DNR) ■ herring spawning and over-wintering ■ Dungeness crab molting, mating, and juvenile rearing ■ shrimp rearing 	

**Unit 8A - Yakutat - uplands & shorelands;
Unit 8B - southeastern Yakutat Bay - tidelands & submerged lands**

Area # & name	Designation	Resource or Use (See the resource reports and maps for more complete information.)	Background
8b-6 tidelands and submerged lands in Broken Oar Cove	WD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ herring spawning, schooling, and over-wintering ■ eelgrass beds ■ Dungeness crab molting, mating, and juvenile rearing ■ shrimp rearing ■ log transfer facility ■ road access from town ■ ramp suitable for boat launching ■ recreation: boat launching, kayaking ■ community harvest: trolling, crab, shrimp, seals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Road accessible ■ Uplands are Native-owned and have been clear cut.